cluding mesta) during the past five years were as given below:

Year	Acreage (000 HEC)	production (000 bales of 180 Kgs.)	productivity (in Kgs.)
1992-93	836.0	7700	1658
1993-94	736.1	7000	1712
1994-95	831.6	8200	1775
1995-96	886.2	8100	1645
1996-97	1039.8	10200	1766

(b) and (c) Yes Sir, substantial carry over stock coupled with a big jute crop resulted to the raw jute prices falling below the MSP level. The funds have already been given to JCI to undertake MSP operation. The requisite steps taken by the Govt. to take care of the phenomenon are as under:—

(a) JCI have been directed to start MSP operations.

(b) Rs. 10.00 crores have been released by the Ministry of Textiles to JCI to start up MSP Operations.

(c) Reserve Bank of India have also authorised JCI on enhanced credit limit of Rs. 10.00 crores valid upto July, 1997.

(d) Govt. of India have also sanctioned a Bank Guarantee for Rs. 33.00 crores for MSP operations by JCI.

(e) Further budgetary support will be given to JCI to enhance the activities on MSP operations.

(f) The Hon'ble Minister of Textiles had already written to the Hon'ble Minister of Food and the Hon'ble Minister of Fertilisers and Chemicals to instruct the FCI and other Fertiliser Companies respectively to place the orders for jute bags. We hope that the demand for jute bags will certainly go up as the bulk purchasers have started placing the orders.

(d) Jute Cultivation is being promoted through adoption of improved package of practices, extension support to growers provision of seeds/implements at subsidised rates etc. under Special Jute Development Programme. Vigorous thrust is being provided for Jute Industry by promotion of traditional products through Mandatory Jute Packaging Order, encouragement for product of lighter materials etc.

(e) No Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Import of Textiles by Rich Nations

914. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the nature of curbs that are affecting import of textiles by rich nations; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to remove these difficulties?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) There are quantitative restrictions (quotas) on exports of certain textile and clothing items from India, applied by the U.S.A., the European Community Countries, Canada and Norway. However, the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC) included in the Final Act on the Uruguay Round, envisages complete integration of the textile sector into the multilateral framework of GATT/WTO by 1-1-2005, in stages.

Close down of BIC Textiles Mills, Kanpur

915. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to close down BIC textile mills, Kanpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore; and

(c) the steps taken to revive these mills?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (c) The BIC Ltd., and its two cotton subsidiaries namely, Elgin Mills Co. Ltd., and Cawnpore Textiles Ltd., were referred to the BIFR due to their net worth erosion. The BIFR had recommended winding up of these companies. The Companies had gone in appeal before the AAIFR and obtained a stay. After due consideration, the AAIFR dismissed the appeals of these Companies against the winding up orders on 9.5.1997. The matters of winding up of these Companies is at present sub-judice before the High Court at Allahabad.

In respect of BIC cotton Subsidiaries, Government are offering VRS facilities to the workmen of these mills with a view to protecting their interests. In addition, wages/salaries are also being paid as also arrears of statutory dues. These facilities have been extended as a special concession for a period of three months. As far as BIC Ltd., is concerned Government is presently continuing to provide budgetary support towards payment of salaries, wages and bonus.

Modernisation of Textile Mills

916. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to modernise some textile mills in the country during the year 1997-98;

(b) if so the details thereof and total amount of investment proposed to be made for modernisation of textile mills in the country particularly in the State of Punjab and Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (c) A proposal is under formulation to facilitate modernisation, through technological upgradation, of the textiles industry. The intended objective is to improve production and productivity of the Indian Textile Industry to make it more competitive, including in the export market. Details of a Technology Upgradation Fund for textiles and jute industries are being worked out.

Operation and maintenance of Irrigation Projects

917. SHRI MD. SALIM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state the percentage of the expenditure under the administrative head in the expenditure on the operation and maintenance or irrigation projects in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): As per details regarding operation and maintenance costs on Major & Medium irrigation projects available upto March 1994 (latest), the percentage of administrative expenses to overall operation and maintenance costs is about 8.2(%) for the year 1993-94.

गुजरात में लिफ्ट सिंचाई केन्द्र

918. **श्री गोपाल सिंह जी सोलंकी:** क्या जल संसाधन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) गुजरात में आज की स्थिति के अनुसार कुल कितने लिफ्ट सिंचाई केन्द्र चालू हालत में हैं;

(ख) क्या पचास प्रतिशत से अधिक लिफ्ट सिंचाई केन्द्र चालू हालत में नहीं हैं;

(ग) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(घ) सरकार द्वारा सिंचित क्षेत्रों में जल उपलब्ध कराने हेतु और सूखे की स्थिति से निपटने हेतु सरकार द्वारा क्या उपाय किए गए हैं?